

CD NO.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR RECEIPT BY ANY PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

- 1 -

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/09/14 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000700120610-9

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Although the production plan for electric power was surpassed for the third quarter of 1952, the article stated, the quantity of power produced was inadequate; thus, it became necessary to limit consumption in some branches of industry and in particular to curtail service to domestic consumers. The article added that the Czechoslovak State Planning Office stated that the difficulties encountered in producing adequate quantities of power could be attributed to delays in initiating construction of generating plants and to delays in accomplishing general overhaul of generating equipment and transmission lines. (1) The Prague periodical, Energetika, of November 1952 stated that electric power consumption during 1952 increased in the various regions of Czechoslovakia as follows:

<u>Region</u>	<u>Increase Over 1951 (%)</u>
Bohemia	7
Moravia	14
Slovakia	20

On the other hand, the article said, stoppages decreased from 19.6 percent for the months of August and September 1951 to 11.7 percent for the same period in 1952. (2) Energetika for January 1953 stated that existing steam-electric plants were heavily taxed; the increase in the number of hours they operated is shown below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Avg No of Hours Operative</u>
1950	4,515
1951	4,624
1952	5,100

In spite of the better exploitation of steam-electric plants, as well as other sources of electric power, the power industry has reiterated its criticism that industrial enterprises were not cooperating sufficiently and were behind in staggering their peak load hours and in switching over to more nighttime operations in order to alleviate the power shortage.

According to this same source, during the second half of 1952, power shortages occurred rather frequently in Bohemia, although the loss in power production was offset to some degree by the output from new plants completed during this period. The situation was less favorable in Slovakia, the periodical said, where power had to be rationed during periods of peak load demand; but regardless of the power shortages frequency was maintained at 50±0.5 cycles per second throughout the Czechoslovak power network. Energetika stated that this is an important achievement and differs from practice in capitalist countries, where tension is often reduced during periods of peak load demand.

During 1952, according to this source, for the first time in the history of Czechoslovak power engineering, a sector of the power network was activated on 220 kilovolts. (3) The Czechoslovak National Encyclopedia states that originally Czechoslovakia had made provisions for piping 100 kilovolts of power along its major networks, although later shorter distances were supplied with as much as 110 and 170 kilovolts. (4) The introduction of 220 kilovolts of power in certain sectors of the country would seem to indicate that power is being transmitted over longer distances, or that intermediate booster stations are being discontinued.

- 2 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

Jiri Brauner, Czechoslovak Deputy Minister of Fuel and Power, in an article in the January 1953 Energetika discussing the shortages in the power industry, expressed concern about the lack of skilled labor, the poor training of workers, and the shortage of adequate repair facilities and spare parts. He asserted that it may become necessary to employ women in the power plants during 1952. He further stated that coal deliveries to power plants were very irregular and the quality of coal far from constant. In the last quarter of 1952, Brauner said, some coal mixtures [sic] were frequently delivered and caused disturbances in the production process. According to Brauner, less than one half of the power plants planned for completion in 1952 had actually been completed; some machines and equipment for these plants had failed to arrive from heavy industrial enterprises, and some equipment did not function properly on arrival, either after a trial run or following brief use. Brauner said that machines and equipment delivered to power plants were not inspected prior to shipment and frequently failed to function even after having been returned for repair.(3)

The 30 December 1952 issue of Prace, Prague daily, stated that the Czechoslovak Five-Year Plan calls for the completion of electric power plants with a combined capacity of more than 527,000 kilowatts.(5) Rude Pravo of 20 December 1952 said that since many of the projected plants are not yet in operation, various attempts are being made to exploit smaller, less efficient power installations to augment lagging production. In Ceske Budejovice Kraj, for example, according to this paper, a small power plant is undergoing repair to supply the town of Kaplice with electricity; in Otava, Sobeslav Okres, a generator and a diesel motor were put into operation to produce power for this area; in Bozejovice the water of a mill drives turbines which produce electricity for the local bakeries.(6) Prace of 14 November 1952 stated that this exploitation of minor power sources will continue until the large hydroelectric power plants are operative and until certain other plants are adapted to operate on coal dust. The paper added that power production by the smaller plants is costly; at present, to produce one kilowatt-hour of electric power, an inefficient power plant uses 1 1/2 kilograms of coal (4,000-5,000 calories).(7)

The 20 November 1952 Journal de Te'heran reported that several large, new power plants are in various stages of construction throughout Czechoslovakia. Among these, the paper said, the Vir dam on the Bohemian-Moravian Highland is in a fairly advanced stage. It added that approximately 7,700 cubic meters of concrete have already been poured in the construction of this dam, and that the pace of concreting operations is soon to be accelerated by the addition of a new, modern cement plant, equipped with powerful crushers, to be erected in the vicinity of the dam. The paper said that the 5-ton sluice gates for the dam have already been installed and the 12,000-horsepower turbines are to be installed soon.(8)

The paper also said that another dam, under construction on the Moravice River at Kruzberk, is designed to supply the entire Ostrava region with electric power; work on this project has been under way for a number of years and necessitated the construction of a completely new road network, to give access to the site of the dam. According to this source, the dam, with a large causeway on its crest, is to be 40 meters high and about 300 meters long; the width of the foundation is about 30 meters. The paper stated that the construction of the upstream wall will require about 100,000 cubic meters of concrete; the 39 million cubic meters of water to be retained eventually by the completed dam will form a lake 10-12 kilometers long.(8)

An important hydroelectric power plant is to be located on the Vltava River at Lipno, according to Aussenhandels Nachrichten for 26 January 1953, which said that more than one million cubic meters of earth and rock are to be moved in its construction. This plant, it was added, will supply power to

- 3 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

factories in southern Bohemia; a new town will be built near the site of the dam, complete with hotel and sanatorium. This source said that the estimated time required for the completion of this entire project is 3 years.(9) Meanwhile, according to Prace of 5 December 1952, work has continued on this dam throughout the winter months, despite subzero temperatures; although previously it was not considered standard practice, concreting is now carried on at the lowest temperatures.(10) Prace for 9 December stated that a new method, evolved by Jaroslav Novotny, calls for the pouring of concrete into metal molds to prevent freezing, and that other methods, such as heating the water to be mixed with the concrete and heating the concrete itself to prevent cracking, are also widely used to accelerate building schedules.(11)

The 4 December issue of Prace stated that at the Slapy power plant [redacted] on the Vltava River, work has progressed to the point where some machinery can be installed during the early part of 1953; it is estimated that by that time a road, at present under construction, will enable the approach of heavy equipment. Prace said that this project has been severely criticized for lagging in construction, and that some absenteeism has improved as a result of this criticism.(12) The Slapy power plant is to house the largest turbine ever made or installed in Czechoslovakia, [redacted]

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

Prace for 23 December 1952 stated that construction of a new hydroelectric plant was begun in 1948 at Krizanovice, and that on 19 December 1952 preparations for a trial run were completed.(14) The 3 October 1952 issue of Prace reported that a new hydroelectric power plant began operating at Smirice nad Labem, that another was scheduled for completion in Hradek Kraj by the end of 1952, and that the two plants are expected to achieve an annual savings of some 10,000 tons of coal each [redacted] The estimated quantity used for equal power output by thermal electric power plants? (15)

The 6 December 1952 issue of Aussenhandels Nachrichten reported that another type of power plant, to operate on lignite, is under construction at Hodonin. The abundant deposits of lignite in this area were previously considered worthless for this type of operation, it stated, because of high water content (as high as 40 percent). The periodical added that a new process, however, permits successful extraction of the water and makes the lignite ideal for firing in this power plant. After completion, this source said, the Hodonin plant will [redacted] not only meet domestic requirements, but also export electric power to Hungary.(16)

The 12 December 1952 issue of Prace reported that boiler repairs are being generally accelerated, to boost power production; recent repairs to the boilers at the Ervenice power plant took only 13 days, the shortest time on record for such an operation.(17) A Czechoslovak tourist guidebook of 1930 states that the Ervenice power plant was built in 1923 - 1925 and supplies 100,000 volts of electric power to Prague, over an 86-kilometer-long line, via Louny and Slany.(18) The power plant at Oslavany shortened the time for performing boiler overhauls by 61 days and for overhauling the turbogenerator by 35 days, according to Prace of 3 January 1953, which added that the annual power output of this plant has been increased by 17 million kilowatt-hours, to a total of 79,791,000 kilowatt-hours.(19) The 1930 guidebook says that the Oslavany plant supplies Brno and Southwest Moravia with power.(18)

SOURCES

1. Berlin, Aussenhandels Nachrichten, 26 Nov 52
2. Prague, Energetika, Nov 52

- 4 -

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1-HUM

3. Ibid., Jan 53
4. Prague, Ceskeslovenska Vlastiveda (Czechoslovak National Encyclopedia)
Vol IX, Sfinx, 1929
5. Prague, Prace, 30 Dec 52
6. Prague, Rude Pravo, 20 Dec 52
7. Prace, 14 Nov 52
8. Teheran, Journal de Teheran, 20 Nov 52
9. Aussenhandels Nachrichten, 26 Jan 53
10. Prace, 5 Dec 52
11. Ibid., 9 Dec 52
12. Ibid., 4 Oct 52
13. New York, FBIS Economic Survey, 25 Feb 53
14. Prace, 23 Dec 52
15. Ibid., 3 Oct 52
16. Aussenhandels Nachrichten, 6 Dec 52
17. Prace, 12 Dec 52
18. Prague, Pruvodce po Ceskoslovenske Republice (Tourist Guide for Czechoslovakia) Part I, Orbis, 1930
19. Prace, 3 Jan 53

- E N D -

- 5 -

CONFIDENTIAL